

Drought Impact Reporter

Benefits and Importance to Producers

Overview

The National Drought Mitigation Center's Drought Impact Reporter tracks drought in various ways, including scanning media for reports about drought impacts, and collecting and mapping observations on drought-related conditions and impacts from agricultural producers and others. Each of these efforts appears on a separate map.

How does this benefit you?

Reports about local conditions and drought may highlight the need for the weekly U.S. Drought Monitor Author to take a closer look at data used to make the U.S. Drought Monitor map. Sometimes reports can help reconcile conflicting data or validate data. The U.S. Drought Monitor map affects disaster relief funding through USDA agencies.

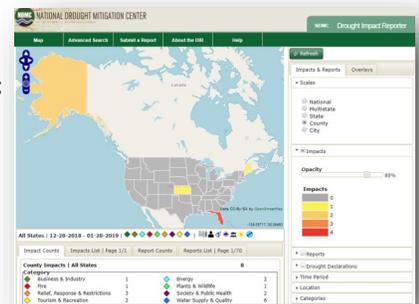
Media-Based Impacts

The drought center conducts an ongoing search of media for news about drought impacts, defined as "an observable loss or change that occurred at a specific place or time because of drought," and uses the results to populate an online database. You can search these media-based impacts via a map or a text-based search, by category/sector, date, scale (city, county, state, multistate or national), and location.

How to Submit a Report

Condition monitoring reports are how you can submit observations about your farm, ranch or surroundings. It is recommended that you submit a photo each month or each season, to provide an ongoing comparison of wet, dry and normal conditions. The form collects:

- your location and date;
- your assessment of how dry or wet conditions are on a seven-point scale;
- whether you have experienced impacts, displayed by sector;
- a photo;
- a caption or description information;
- and (optional) name, organization and email.



Condition monitoring reports appear on a map that initially displays how dry or wet users said it was. Separate tabs display any impacts reported by sector and allow you to filter by impact, such as crop loss. Another tab highlights reports that include photos. (Photos may take a few days to appear.)

The report form and mapped archive of condition monitoring reports from 2018 are accessible via <https://droughtreporter.unl.edu/submitreport/>

For More Information

Drought Impacts Reporter: <http://droughtreporter.unl.edu/>
U.S. Drought Monitor: <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>
About the U.S. Drought Monitor: <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/AboutUSDM/WhatIsTheUSDM.aspx>
NIDIS: <https://www.drought.gov/drought/>

Contact

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Information compiled and distributed by:



Midwest Climate Hub
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Community Collaborative Rain, Hail & Snow Network

Benefits and Importance to Producers

Overview

CoCoRaHS is a non-profit, community-based network of volunteers of all ages and backgrounds working together to measure and map precipitation (rain, hail and snow). Using low-cost measurement tools, stressing training and education, and utilizing an interactive website, CoCoRaHS aims to provide the highest quality data for natural resource and research applications.

How does this benefit you?

CoCoRaHS is used by a wide variety of organizations and individuals: The National Weather Service, hydrologists, ranchers and farmers, emergency managers, insurance adjusters, and many others in the community use these data. USDA observes CoCoRaHS data regularly to evaluate crop conditions, anticipate market cycles, and estimate irrigation requirements and to provide input to the U.S. Drought Monitor.

By providing daily observations, agricultural producers and ranchers help to fill in a piece of the weather puzzle that affects many across their community. In some areas, activities are organized for network participants including training sessions, field trips, and speakers, just to name a few, allowing producers to boost their weather-reporting network.

Sign Up to be an Observer

This is a community project: Everyone can help. The only requirements are an enthusiasm for watching and reporting weather conditions and a desire to learn more about how weather impacts the agriculture community. To get started:

1. Research and read through the [CoCoRaHS website](#) and learn what the project is about.
2. Go to our "[Join CoCoRaHS](#)" web page and sign up. Once signed up, someone will contact you with the information (station name, station number and login support) needed to get your station up and running.
 - Invest in a rain gauge. *Pro-Tip: Some places offer special prices to customers who have a CoCoRaHS station number.*
 - Pick up hail pads from CoCoRaHS headquarters or from your county's local coordinator (state dependent: not all states measure hail).
3. Either attend a training session for volunteers in person, or view the "[Training Slide Show](#)". ***Good training along with careful observing and reporting are very important to the network and the users of our data.***
4. Report your data daily.



For More Information

CoCoRaHS Home Page: <https://www.cocorahs.org/>

CoCoRaHS Observer Application: <https://www.cocorahs.org/Content.aspx?page=application>

Contact

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